

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

In my role of financing farmers, ranchers and related businesses, I am concerned about how the Cal-Fed program will affect the environment on those farms and ranches.

Cal-Fed is proposing to convert nearly 250,000 acres from productive farmland into habitat and other uses. Sufficient time should be utilized to study the effect on the environment as well as the economic impact that removal of farmland from production will have on the citizens of this county. Those lands will no longer produce food, fiber, nor provide a source of revenue to the county government.

I am concerned that this document is overly complex and lengthy, creating a major obstacle to those attempting to plow through and understand it as well as respond to the contents.

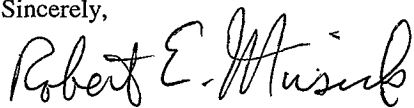
More time is necessary for the various concerned parties to understand the implications of the document.

Farmers recognize and support the need to use water more efficiently. In fact, farming in general has increased production while actually reducing the amount of water used by modernizing irrigation practices and delivery systems. Smaller amounts of water applied to the land can have adverse consequences as well. Salt intrusion is one of the many aspects of using less water on the land. Farmers can run wildlife-friendly, productive farms only if they have adequate, reliable affordable water. Without water, farmland loses its value both as habitat and as a vital food resource for California's exploding population.

Because of all the impacts on the environment of rural California, and because the signing in June of the "framework agreement", and because the Cal-Fed plan appears to have changed, we need more time to evaluate the environmental report. Public hearings would help Cal-Fed explain how its plan has changed and how it will affect Californians. Hearings would also give people time to express support or concerns about the various changes from the original plan. Cal Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

Please hold more hearings allowing sufficient time to study the 6,500- page document!

Sincerely,



Robert E. Musick
Concerned Citizen
San Joaquin County